THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. These findings are reported in the Annual Report No. 5 of 1996 of C&AG on Revenue Receipts Direct Taxes for the year ended 31.3.1995.

(b) The amount of recovery made out of this amount of Rs. 855.38 crores is not ascertainable on account of the following reasons:—

(i) Many audit objections are resisted by the Income-tax Department on the basis of factual verification and the existing provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and the same are finally dropped by the revenue audit.

(ii) A number of assessees file appeals against the orders rectifying the mistakes, creating additional tax demand. During the pendency of first appeal, co-ercive measures of recovery are generally not adopted.

(iii) The additional demand raised on account of these audit objections is sometimes stayed by the assessing officers, supervisory officers and appeallate authorities.

(iv) In many cases, as a result of appellate orders, the additional demand raised is reduced or deleted.

(c) In most of these cases, the explanation of the erring officer is called by the Department to examine their bonafides and appropriate action is taken wherever required.

Introduction of vaccines to Combat Leprosy

2662. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some vaccines are introduced to combat leprosy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Daily Despatch Lists for Exports and Import List for Imports

2663. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which the Customs publish the daily despatch list for export and daily import lists for Imports;

(b) whether there is any other sister agency apart from Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics which officially and authentically compiles these details as a routine or on specitic request; and

(c) if so, the name and details of such agency?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) the daily list of imports and exports is published by all the major Customs Houses, based on the data fed into their computer systems concerning the import and export clearances effected through the respective Ports/Air Cargo Complexes under their jurisdiction.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Proposal for reducing Cess on Spices

2664. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for reducing the export cess of spices is pending;

(b) whether pending decision on that proposal, export of cardamom, pepper etc. were exempted from payment of cess from 1992 onwards with periodical extention utpo 31st March, 1996;

(c) whether there was delay to extend the exemption beyond 31st March, 1996

and exemption for cess was given only from 1st August, 1996 which made the exporters pay cess for the exports made during 1st April, 1996 to 31st July 1996; and

(d) whether steps will be taken to accord permission for exemption on specified spices from 1.4.1996 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Exemption from levy of cess on exports of Cardamom, Pepper etc. which was available upto March, 31, 1996 was allowed to continue beyond that date, but the Government notification to this effect was issued only on 1.8.1996. The Ministry of Commerce has however, been advised to refund the cess, if any collected on such items during the intervening period from 1.4.1996 to 31.7.1996.

Creating General Awareness among People about the Ill-Effects of Tobacco and Liquor

2665. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of persons die every year due to consumption of tobacco and liquor;

(b) if so, the number of deaths reported during the last three years, Statewise;

(c) whether Government propose to initiate a campaign with a view to create general awareness among the people regarding ill-affects of consumption of tobacco and liquor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) It is estimated that about 8 lakh people die each year due to tobacco related diseases, in the country. No Year-wise and State-wise data is available. Authentic data on deaths due to consumption of liquor is not available.

(c) and (d) Government has initiated several measures like education about the ill effects of tobacco, prohibition of smoking in public places, besides a statutory warning on cigarette packs that "Somking is injurious to health". As regards creation of awareness on ill effects of consumption of liquor, Ministry of Welfare, Government of India is implementing a scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse prevention.

Advance through Fake Applications in Punjab & Sind Bank

2666. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case of grant of clear advance of Rs. 34 crore to a single borrower through fake applications for car registrations by Punjab & Sink Bank has come to light;

(b) whether confirmation for the grant or otherwise of like advances, in violation of the Reserve Bank of India guidelines, by the same Bank has been received during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the Punjab & Sind Bank in arrangement with Premier Automobiles Ltd. (PAL) formulated a scheme in 1993-94 for handling booking of Premier NE 1.38 D Cars. Under this scheme the bank would grant unsecured advance of Rs. 20,000/- to each of the persons who intended to book the car at 20.25% repayable in twenty monthly instalments with a holiday of four months. Further as per the scheme formulated, cancellation